

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2451
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0956

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PP
SUBJ: ELECTION ROUND 2-ATTEMPTS TO FORM GOVERNMENT CONTINUE

REF: A) PORT MORESBY 0903, B) PORT MORESBY 0920

1. SUMMARY: PANGU-PPP COALITION HEADED BY SOMARE AND
CHAN ANNOUNCED IN REFTEL B HAS GAINED ADDITIONAL SEATS
AS RETURNS IN MOST ELECTORATES HAVE BECOME KNOWN, BUT
OPPOSITION TO THAT COALITION IS RALLYING. UNITED PARTY
AND VARIOUS SPLINTER GROUPS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT
OF SIR JOHN GUISE AS PRIME MINISTER AND SIR TEI ABAL AS
DEPUTY PM. GUISE COALITION HAD HOPED TO GAIN SUPPORT OF
MATAUNGANS AND BOUGAINVILLEANS, BUT THESE TWO HAVE
JOINED FORCES TO FORM A THIRD COALITION REGIONAL IN
NATURE WHICH HOPES TO HOLD BALANCE OF POWER. PARTY
LOYALTIES ARE VERY TENUOUS AND INTENSE MANEUVERING IS
TAKING PLACE. OUTCOME COULD BE BROADENING OF
PANGU-PPP COALITION TO INCLUDE OTHER SMALLER GROUPS
OR COULD BE COALESCING OF VERY DISPARATE GROUPS
AROUND GUISE TO FORM CABINET HELD TOGETHER ONLY BY
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THEIR OPPOSITION TO SOMARE AND CHAN. END SUMMARY.

2. VOTING TALLIES NOW COMPLETED ENABLE PREDICTION
OF WINNERS IN ALL BUT TO OF THE 108 PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTORATES. NOW SO SIMPLE, HOWEVER, IS MEASUREMENT
OF THE STRENGTH OF EACH POLITICAL PARYT AND GROUPING,
AS ILLUSTRATED BY FOLLOWING TABLE (55 VOTES - MAJORITY):

	READILY		
	APPARENT	PROBABLE	GROUP'S OWN
GROUP	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	ASSESSMENT
PANGU	32	36	41
PPP	19	21	28
UNITED PARTY	21	31	34
PAPUA BESENA	6	8	8
MATAUNGANS	3	4	4
BOUGAINVILLEANS	3	4	4
INDEPENDENTS	3	4	4
THOSE OF UNCERTAIN OR VARYING PERSUASION	21	-	-

	108	108	123*

2. ABOVE NUMBERS ARE CERTAIN TO SHIFT AS EFFORTS TO
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FORM VARIOUS COALITIONS CONTINUE BEFORE FIRST SITTING
OF PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 9. SMALLER GRUPS OR INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERS COULD BE TEMPTED OUT OF ANY OF THE GROUPS BY
OFFER OF APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES OR OTHER INDUCEMENTS.

3. PANGU-PPP COALITION: AFTER THE SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED
TREND TO PANGU AND PPP BECOME OBVIOUS, SOMARE AND CHAN
ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THEIR PARTNERSHIP
IN COALITION. SOMARE HAS PUBLICLY HINTED THAT THIS
COULD BE BASED SOLELY ON THE STRENGTHS OF THE TWO
PARTIES. AS TABLE INDICATES, PANGU AND PPP BELIEVE
THEY WILL COMMAND 69 VOTES IN NEW PARLIAMENT. THIS
EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT DASHED THE HOPES OF OTHER GROUPS
WHOSE MEMBERS STRONGLY WISHED TO BE IN GOVERNMENT AND
LED MANY TO LOOK FOR OTHER MENAS OF GETTING INTO
GOVERNMENT.

4. NATIONAL ALLIANCE: AS A COUNTER TO THE MOMENTUM
BEING DEVELOPED BY PANGU-PPP, UNITED PARTY INTENDED TO
ANNOUNCE ON JULY 19 A NATIONAL ALLIANCE WHICH WOULD
SUPPORT JOHN GUISE FOR PRIME MINISTER. NATIONAL
ALLIANCE WAS TO INCLUDE UNITED PARTY, PAPUA BESENA,

BOUGAINVILLEANS, MATAUGANS AND INDEPENDENTS, TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL MOBILE MEMBERS OF PPP, FOR A SELF-PERCEIVED TOTAL STRENGTH OF 56.

5. ALLIANCE: HOURS BEFORE THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE WAS TO BE ANNOUNCED, JOHN MOMIS OF THE BOUGAINVILLEANS AND JOHN KAPUTIN OF THE MATAUGANS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO TRY TO FORM AN ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL ACTIVISTS. THIS GROUP WOULD BE COMPOSED OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WOULD, ACCORDING TO THEIR CALCULATIONS, NUMBER ABOUT 20 AND HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE PANGU-PPP COALITION AND THE UNITED PARTY. MOMIS AND KAPUTIN ARE TO TOUR THE COUNTRY IN COMING WEEK ENLISTING HOPED-FOR SUPPORT FOR
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THEIR GROUP.

6. NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAIN: THE UNITED PARTY ISSUED ITS ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ONE DAY LATER AFTER DELETING ALL REFERENCE TO THE GROUPS THAT WOULD LEND SUPPORT IN DEFERENCE TO THE KAPUTIN/MOMIS ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTED IN 5 ABOVE.

7. PROSPECTS: SOMARE HAS PUBLICLY STATED HIS AVERSION TO DIRECTING A COALITION CONTAINING SMALL DISSIDENT OR RECALCITRANT GROUPS. IF HE AND CHAN STICK TO THEIR DECISION TO HAVE ONLY PANGU AND PPP IN CABINET, NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ALL OTHER MEMBERS COULD SPRING INTO BEING. THIS WOULD BE A COALITION OF ALL THE OUTS AGAINST THE INS, A REPEAT OF 1972 WHEN PANGU ORGANIZED ALL OTHER GROUPS TO OPPOSE THE UNITED PARTY. A MORE LIKELY OUTCOME IS THAT PANGU-PPP WILL CHOOSE TO CO-OPT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM WITHIN UNITED PARTY AND/OR TO ACCOMMODATE BOUGAINVILLEANS, AND THUS GOVERN WITH A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY. HOWEVER AT THIS STAGE, PANGU-PPP COALITION APPEARS FIRM AND ABLE TO COMMAND ENOUGH VOTES TO GOVERN ON ITS OWN. IN OPPOSITION AND QUITE POSSIBLY UNITED WOULD STAND: PAPUANS JOHN GUISE AND JOSEPHINE ABAIJAH; ISLANDERS JOHN MOMIS AND JOHN KAPUTIN; AND HIGHLANDERS RAPHAEL DOA AND IAMBAKEY OKUK. THESE POWERFUL AND ARTICULATE REGIONAL SPOKESMEN COULD BE COUNTED ON TO VIGOROUSLY AND PUBLICLY OPPOSE THE COALITION GOVERNMENT.

8. AUGUST 9: ACCORDING TO CURRENT PLANS, NEW PARLIAMENT WILL MEET ON THIS DATE TO ELECT SPEAKER BY SECRET BALLOT AND PRIME MINISTER BY PUBLICLY VOTED MOTION. SYSTEM OF PUBLIC BALLOT FOR PRIME MINISTER WILL GIVE A GREAT ADVANTAGE TO ANY COALITION WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED ITS MOMENTUM TOWARDS A
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CLEAR VICTORY AS WAVERING VOTES WILL FLOCK TO ITS BANNER.

9. WHICHEVER GOVERNMENT FINALLY ATTAINS POWER ON THAT DATE
WILL BE ENSURED OF AT LEAST SIX MONTHS TO CONSOLIDATE ITS
SUPPORT. CONSTITUTION DOES NOT ALLOW MOTIONS OF NO CONFIDENCE
FOR THAT PERIOD.
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